

### **Remarks**

Entry of this amendment and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 10-15, 17, 19, 21-26, 28 & 31 will remain pending.

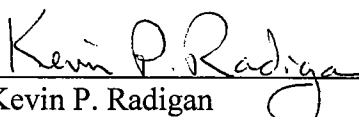
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of dependent claims 9, 10, 19, 20, 30 & 31 if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to this indication, independent claims 1, 11 & 22 are respectively rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 9, 20 & 30. Additionally, allowable dependent claim 19 is rewritten into independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, independent claims 1, 11, 19 & 22 are believed allowable, as well as the claims which depend therefrom.

The amendments submitted herewith are not intended as an acknowledgement that the previously pending and rejected claims 1-8, 11-18 & 21-29 were unpatentable over the art cited in the Office Action. Rather, the present amendments and cancellations are presented only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent application(s).

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

*If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
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